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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT Youth Brigades

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ORIGIN

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1. Youth Brigades have recently been formed in Bulgaria ostensibly for public works, such as dam construction and road building. Actually, the Youth Brigades are more in the nature of military organizations and are designed to put Bulgarian youth, ranging in age from 16 to 30 years and irrespective of sex, through periods of military training and outdoor work at Labor Camps. These periods coincide with the university summer vacation and are in addition to normal military service.
2. Recruitment to the Youth Brigades is "voluntary", inasmuch as every entrant is assured that a satisfactory record of service will be rewarded by a certificate of good conduct. In cases where "volunteers" are aspirants to a university training, these certificates will facilitate entry into a university.
3. Although the formation of four Youth Brigades has been projected, only one, the Georgi Dimitrov National Construction Brigade, is so far in existence. It is subdivided into the following five battalions:
 - (a) 1st Hristo Botev Battalion, commanded by Bangiev, working on the Sofia-Permik railroad.
 - (b) 2nd Alexander Stamboliski Battalion, commanded by Emchev, working on the Han Boaz Pass, two kilometers from Gurkovo.
 - (c) 3rd Vassil Kolarov Battalion, at work on the Rossitsa barrage (two kilometers from Gorsko-Kosovo).
 - (d) 4th Traicho Kostov Battalion, at work on the Kopriaka barrage near Kazanlik.
 - (e) 5th Prof. Asen Zlatarov Battalion, working on the Konrillo-Sofia-Plodiv high frequency power cable.
4. All members of this brigade wear uniforms. Work on construction schemes lasts six hours a day. Military exercises and lectures on Marx-Leninism take place three times a week.

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